GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3014
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2008
BREAK FROM EXPLORATORY ACTIVITY BY THE PETROLEUM COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading petroleum companies seeking a break from exploratory activity in the already awarded deep water blocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government has worked out a proposal for granting a exploration holiday;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to meet the shortage in the oil production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b) Some E&P companies have approached Government for a drilling Moratorium for a period of about three years for deepwater areas in view of global shortage of deepwater rigs.

(c) and (d) No final decision has been taken by the Government on this issue.

(e) Several steps have been taken/are in hand to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities and to bridge the demand and supply gap in the country, which includes the following:

(i) Offering more and more areas for exploration including deepwater and frontier areas through NELP rounds.

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional sources of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.,

(viii) Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.